Fertilizer prices

4697. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of both indigenous and imported fertilizers, in the domestic market today;

(b) how these compare with the prices prevailing during the last five years; and

(c) the reasons for increase in their prices, recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government fixes maximum retail price (MRP) in case of urea, the only controlled fertilizer, and indicates MRPs in case of decontrolled P&K fertilizers. The MRPs of Single Super Phosphate are indicated by respective State Governments. Existing MRPs/ indicative MRPs of major fertilizers, both indigenous and imported, are given in the table below:

S.No.	Name of the Fertilizers	MRPs (Rs. per tonne)
1.	Urea	4830
2.	DAP	9350
3.	MOP	4455

MRPs/Indicative MRPs of major fertilizers, both indigenous and imported, during the last five years are given in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Fertilizer	Hike in Sale Prices									
		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
		Sale Price	Effective from	Sale Price	Effective from	Sale Price	Effective from	Sale Price	Effective from	Sale Price	Effective from
1.	Urea	3660	21.2.1997	4000	29.1.1999	4600	29.2.2000	No Price hike during 2000-01		4830	28.2.2002
2.	DAP	8300	1.4.1997	No price hike during 1998-99		8900	29.2.2000	No Price hike durng 2000-01		9350	28.2.2002
3.	MOP	3700	1.4.1997	No price hike during 1998-99		4255	29.2.2000	No price hike during 2000-01		4455	28.2.2002

(c) Recent increase in prices of chemical fertilizers has been done, after careful consideration of all aspects pertaining to fiscal sustainability and balanced nutrient application in the country.

BIO-fertilizers

4698. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much money Government spend to promote bio-fertilizers, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government has been conducting continuous research through agricultural universities in the bio-fertilizers field;

(c) if so, what has been the output; and

(d) whether farmers have taken to bio-fertililzers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers was started with the aim of promoting the use of bio-fertilizers. Under the project, a National Bio-fertilizer Development Centre with six Regional Centres have been established. Grants are also given for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units. The details of expenditure incurred on these activities, year-wise and State-wise, is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. New varieties of bio-fertilizers have been identified, tested and propagated.

(d) About 10,000 tonnes of different bio-fertilisers are being produced and marketed in the country.